AEZ for lime and Pomegranate in Karnataka

1639. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when a proposal for establishment of AEZ for lime and pomegranate in Karnataka was received by Government;

(b) whether the above proposal has been cleared;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The proposal for establishment of an Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for lime and pomegranate in Karnataka was received in Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority on 8 September, 2003.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing AEZs, with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets and suggest remedial action, has been undertaken. Setting up of new AEZs would be considered after the evaluation is complete.

Merchandized Exports

1640. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has fixed $93 billion target for merchandized exports;

(b) what is its present status and how far has the export growth been regained during the last three years;

(c) the action-plan of Government to give a further boost to these exports; and

(d) what is the position of Orissa in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government has fixed an overall target of US $ 92 billion for merchandise exports during the current financial year.

(b) As per the data available with the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, growth of India's merchandise exports during the last three years and thereafter is as follows:

India's Merchandise Exports

Year	Value in US$ million	% growth over previous year
2002-03	52719	20.29
2003-04	63843	21.10
2004-05	80540	26.15
2005-06(P) (April-January)	74978	18.87

(P): Provisional Data.

(c) Export promotion is a constant endeavor of the Government and a number of measures have been taken to increase exports. These include bringing into force the SEZ Act, 2005 to trigger a larger flow of investment in infrastructure and productive capacity, setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs), giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters; and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.

(d) The share of Orissa in total exports has increased in recent years. The exports from Orissa during the last three years and reafter is given below:

Year	Value in Rs. Crore	% share in India's total exports
2002-03	2406	0.94
2003-04	2411	0.82
2004-05	7921	2.19
2005-06(P) (April-December)	3653	1.18

(P) Provisional Data, Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.